

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1606

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: EAST LONDON "FEDERALISM CONFERENCE" TAKES BACK SEAT
TO "UMTATA SUMMIT"

REF: A) DURBAN 402 B) PRETORIA 4112

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING HOMELAND LEADER "BLACK SUMMIT" AT
UMTATA, PROG. PARTY SPONSORED "FEDERALISM CONFERENCE" IN EAST
LONDON. BOTH MEETINGS ILLUSTRATE THAT TALK OF FEDERALISM FOR
FUTURE OF SA IS "IN THE AIR". YET, WHILE CONCEPT IS DISCUSS-
ED BY BLACK AND WHITE ALIKE, ACTUAL GOALS MAY NOT BE COMPATIBLE.
END SUMMARY.

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2. CLOSE ON HEELS OF HOMELAND LEADERS' SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT CONFERENCE AT UMTATA (REF A), PROGRESSIVE PARTY-INITIATED "FEDERALISM CONFERENCE" HELD EAST LONDON NOV. 9-11. MEETING CHAIRED BY DONALD WOODS, EDITOR EAST LONDON'S "DAILY DISPATCH" AND ATTENDED BY ASSORTED HOMELAND LEADERS, LIBERAL ACADEMICS, PROG. PARTY LUMINARIES, "VERLIGTE ACTION" REPS, PROMINENT COLOREDS, AFRICANS, INDIANS, AND PRESSMEN. UNITED AND NAT. PARTY OFFICIALS CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT.

3. CONFERENCE ISSUED FOUR POINT "STATEMENT OF CONSENSUS" WHICH (1) UNANIMOUSLY AFFIRMED "NEED FOR URGENT CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA"; (2) DECLARED BELIEF IN FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF ALL, REGARDLESS OF RACE, CREED OR COLOR TO LEAD FULL LIFE WITH DIGNITY, OPPORTUNITY AND JUSTICE UNDER RULE OF LAW; (3) AGREED TO FEDERATION OF "AUTONOMOUS STATES FREE OF RACIAL EXCLUSIVENESS"; AND (4) CALLED FOR "BILL OF RIGHTS" TO BE ENTRENCHED IN PROPOSED FEDERAL CONSTITUTION. FIFTH POINT, CALLING ON ALL DELEGATES TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO AND PROPAGATE FOUR ABOVE GOALS, DROPPED BECAUSE OF "DIFFICULTIES IT MIGHT POSE FOR SOME IN THEIR PUBLIC CAPACITIES".

4. COMMENT: UMTATA SUMMIT LIKELY TO HAVE GREATER SIGNIFICANCE ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT FEDERAL/CONFEDERAL CONCEPT THAN EAST LONDON GATHERING. THROUGHOUT LATTER MEETING PROGS BOASTED THAT PROG PARTY POLICY HAD ALWAYS BEEN BASED ON FEDERAL CONCEPT WHILE APPARENTLY FORGETTING THAT PARTY HAS THUS FAR BEEN SINGULARLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN PROPAGATING CONCEPT OF INFLUENCING MAJOR SEGMENT OF WHITE ELECTORATE IN THAT DIRECTION.

5. AS BUTHELEZI EXPLAINED AT MEETING, BLACK NEEDS, GOALS AND DIGNITY MUST COME FIRST WITH HOMELAND LEADERS. UP'S MOST RECENTLY REDEFINED POLICY OF SHARED POWER AND WHITE LEADERSHIP (REF B) NOT LIKELY SATISFY THESE NEEDS. VERWOERD TALKED OF COMMONWEALTH OF SOUTH AFRICAN STATES AND UP AND PROG PARTIES TRUMPET THEIR OWN CALLS TO FEDERALISM. ALL THREE, HOWEVER, PREDICATED ON PROTECTION OF WHITE INTERESTS IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. HOWEVER WHEN, AS AT UMTATA, AFRICANS TALK OF FEDERATION THEY PUT AFRICAN NEEDS AND GOALS FIRST. WHITES MAY BE PERMITTED TO ASSOCIATE WITH A BLACK SUPER STATE BUT THEY WILL NOT BE ITS "RAISON D'ETRE". IN FACT WHITE DESIRE FOR PROTECTION AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFRICAN LONGING FOR TRUE POLITICAL EXPRESSION MAY PROVE INCREASINGLY INCOMPATIBLE.
HOLMES

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